COLLECTORS CORNER #87 JUNE 11, 1976
PAUL FRANCUCH:

THE CLOCK MAN OF GEORGIA
(VOICED PIECE, INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: AND NOW, COLLECTOR'S CORNER, THE VOICE OF AMERICA SERIES OF PROGRAMS FOR LISTENERS WHO COLLECT THINGS, WHETHER THEY BE STAMPS OR COINS, SNUFF BOTTLES OR OLD AUTOS, OR EVEN BALLS OF STRING. HERE'S THIS WEEK'S REPORT, PREPARED BY PAUL FRANCUCH:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- WESTMINISTER CHIMES RUNS -- :27
IN FULL :05-:10, THEN DOWN, UNDER ANNOUNCER, AND LOSE.

VOICE: THOSE ARE WESTMINISTER CHIMES -- THE RICH MUSIC SUNG BY CLOCKS IN HOMES THE WORLD OVER.

MANKIND HAS, FROM THE BEGINNING OF RECORDED HISTORY, TRIED TO MEASURE TIME. THE ANCIENT CHINESE AND EGYPTIANS DEVISED WATER CLOCKS -- INSTRUMENTS WHICH MEASURED TIME BY THE FALL OR FLOW OF WATER. THAT WAS FOLLOWED BY THE SUNDIAL, AND THEN THE MECHANICAL CLOCK -- THE TYPE STILL USED TODAY. MAN'S DEPENDENCE ON CLOCKS AND TIME-KEEPING HAS CREATED A CORPS OF CLOCK COLLECTORS. ONE SUCH COLLECTOR IS MARION ALLEN OF ROBERTA, GEORGIA . HE COLLECTS CLOCKS, BUILDS CLOCKS, AND REBUILDS CLOCKS. AND IT KEEPS HIM FROM HAVING TIME ON HIS HANDS IN RETIREMENT.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- ALLEN

"I STARTED COLLECTING CLOCKS ABOUT 15 YEARS AGO. BUT I NEVER DID ANY WORK ON THEM UNTIL AFTER I RETIRED IN 1962. THEN I STARTED WORKING ON THEM. NOW I REPAIR THE WOODWORK, AS WELL AS THE MECHANICAL PARTS OF THEM. AND IF I CAN'T BUY A PART, I MAKE IT."

VOICE: MISTER ALLEN CAN MAKE THE PARTS BECAUSE HE'S A RETIRED MACHINIST -- AND HE HAS ALL THE TOOLS HE NEEDS TO GET CLOCKS TICKING AGAIN. HOW MANY CLOCKS HAS HE COLLECTED AND REPAIRED OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS? OVER ONE THOUSAND. MISTER ALLEN NOW RUNS A CLOCK REPAIR SERVICE IN THE SMALL GEORGIA TOWN WHERE HE LIVES. HIS SHOP IS CLUTTERED WITH ALL KINDS OF CLOCKS. BUT HOW MANY OF THEM WORK?

TAPE: CUT THREE -- ALLEN

"WELL, IT WOULD BE A GUESS, BUT I'D SAY NOW -- IN RUNNING ORDER -- NOT TOO MANY. PROBABLY 25 OR 30. BUT I HAVE 'THE WORKS' AND MATERIALS TO BUILD PROBABLY 100-150 MORE."

VOICE: BESIDES RESTORING OLD CLOCKS, MISTER ALLEN BUILDS NEW CLOCKS -- THE ENGLISH "GRANDFATHER" AND "GRANDMOTHER" STYLES WITH PENDULUMS, WEIGHTS AND CHIMES. BUT THE OLD CLOCKS SEEM TO ATTRACT THE GREATEST ATTENTION -- ESPECIALLY AMONG ANTIQUE COLLECTORS. SOME OF THE CLOCKS ARE EXTREMELY VALUABLE FOR REASONS WHICH, MISTER ALLEN SAYS, ARE APPARENT:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- ALLEN

"WHAT MAKES A CLOCK VALUABLE TODAY: THE VALUABLE ANTIQUE CLOCK IS THE ONE THAT SOME INDIVIDUAL DIDN'T MAKE TOO MANY OF. THE SCARCITY AND THE AGE MAKE IT VALUABLE."

VOICE: THIS APPLIES TO ALL ANTIQUES. THE INTEREST AROUND THE UNITED STATES IN OLD CLOCKS IS QUITE EXTENSIVE. NEARLY 30,000 PERSONS BELONG TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH AND CLOCK COLLECTORS -- AND THE MEMBERSHIP IS STILL GROWING. BUT THE FACT THAT SOME OF THE OLD CLOCKS HAVE EARNED THE

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